

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 8354, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8354

To establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself and Mr. TAYLOR) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Servicemembers and
5 Veterans Initiative Act of 2020.”

1 **SEC. 2. SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS INITIATIVE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the
3 Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil
4 Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

5 (b) DUTIES.—The Servicemembers and Veterans Ini-
6 tiative shall—

7 (1) serve as legal and policy advisor to the At-
8 torney General on the Department of Justice’s ef-
9 forts to enforce criminal and civil laws that impact
10 servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

11 (2) develop policy recommendations for the At-
12 torney General on how the Department of Justice
13 may improve enforcement of Federal law to support
14 servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

15 (3) serve as the liaison and point of contact be-
16 tween the Department of Justice and the military
17 departments;

18 (4) provide counsel to the Assistant Attorney
19 General for the Office of Justice Programs to ensure
20 funding decisions take into account servicemembers,
21 veterans, and their families;

22 (5) consult with components of the Department
23 of Justice to promote the provision of civil legal aid
24 to servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

25 (6) serve as a liaison and point of contact with
26 the Consumer Protection Branch of the Civil Divi-

1 sion of the Department of Justice, with respect to
2 the prosecution of Federal crimes involving fraud
3 that target servicemembers; and

4 (7) serve as a liaison and point of contact with
5 other components of the Department of Justice as
6 needed to support the enforcement of other Federal
7 laws that protect servicemembers and veterans, as
8 the Attorney General determines appropriate.